

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A terminal device in a map distribution system, comprising:
 - a communication unit configured to transmit information to an information center that distributes map information and to receive information from the information center;
 - a map storing unit configured to store the map information received by the communication unit; ~~and~~
 - a control information storing unit configured to store control information associated with the map information stored in the map storing unit ~~and received by the communication unit~~;
 - a communication control unit configured to control the communication unit to transmit the control information stored in the control information storing unit to the information center on prescribed times so as to receive latest control information transmitted from the information center;
 - a control unit configured to rewrite the control information stored in the control information storing unit to the latest control information; and
 - a map updating unit configured to determine that the map information stored in the map storing unit is to be updated when the map updating unit compares the map information stored in the information center and the map information stored in the map storing unit while referring to the control information stored in the control information storing unit and judges that the map

information stored in the information center is newer than the map information stored in the map information storing unit.

~~wherein the control information is transmitted to the information center every prescribed timings;~~

~~the communication unit receives latest control information which the information center transmits in response to the transmitted control information; and~~

~~the control information stored in the control information storing unit is rewritten to the latest control information.~~

2. (currently amended): The terminal device according to claim 1, wherein the control information includes information of update dates on which the map information was updated in the information center further comprising:

~~a map updating unit configured to update the map information stored in the map storing unit;~~

~~wherein the map updating unit refers to the control information stored in the control information storing unit to determine information included in the map information to be updated.~~

3. (currently amended): The terminal device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a map updating unit for updating the map information stored in the map storing unit;~~ wherein the map updating unit updates the map information on ~~with~~ a map update unit basis, the map update unit including at least one of a minimum unit map group capable of being updated.

4. (currently amended): The terminal device according to claim 3, wherein the control information controls the map information on each map update unit basis~~is administered with a file for each map update unit.~~

5. (currently amended): A map distribution system, comprising:
an information center that distributes map information~~stores the latest map information;~~
and
a terminal device including a communication unit configured to transmit information to the information center and to receive information from the information center, a map storing unit configured to store the map information received by the communication unit, and a control information storing unit configured to store control information associated with the map information stored in the map storing unit~~map storing unit;~~

~~wherein the communication unit transmits information to the information center and receives information from the information center;~~

~~the map storing unit stores map information received by the communication unit;
— the control information storing unit stores control information associated with the map information and received by the communication unit;~~

~~the terminal device transmits the control information to the information center everyon
prescribed timingtimes;~~

~~the information center transmits the latest control information to the terminal device in
response to the control information transmitted from the terminal device;~~ and

the terminal device rewrites the control information stored in the control information storing unit to the latest control information, and updates the map information stored in the map storing unit with the map information obtained from the information center when the terminal device compares the map information stored in the information center and the map information stored in the map storing unit while referring to the control information stored in the control information storing unit and judges that the map information stored in the information center is newer than the map information stored in the map information storing unit.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): An updating method of ~~map control information for a terminal device in a map~~ distribution system including a communication unit configured to transmit information to an information center that distributes map information and to receive information from the information center, a map storing unit configured to store the map information received by the communication unit, and a control information storing unit configured to store control information associated with the map information stored in the map storing unit~~transmitting system, wherein the terminal device comprises: a measuring unit for measuring and determining the current position of a vehicle, a communication unit for transmitting information to and receiving information from an information center, a map storing unit for storing map information received by the communication unit, and a control information storing unit for storing control information associated with the map information received by the communication unit, the~~ updating method comprising:

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transmitting the control information stored in the control information storing unit to the information center ~~every on~~ prescribed timing times;

receiving latest control information transmitted from the information center in response to the transmitting of the control information; and

rewriting the control information stored in the control information storing unit to the latest control information;

comparing the map information stored in the information center and the map information stored in the map storing unit while referring to the control information stored in the control information storing unit and judging whether the map information stored in the information center is newer than the map information stored in the map information storing unit; and

updating the map information stored in the map storing unit with the map information obtained from the information center when it is judged that the map information stored in the information center is newer than the map information stored in the map information storing unit.